



Anti-Semitism: Still Alive 7 Decades Post-Holocaust

By Amy Frieder

The day I'm writing this article is Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Memorial Day. We remember the atrocities that happened in Nazi Europe that wiped out two-thirds of the Jewish population there. As a Jew of European descent, I am lucky that most of my family had immigrated to the United States before the war. I am also lucky to have had the opportunity to travel to Poland over winter break and experience the roller coaster of emotions that comes with exploring Jewish life while also confronting an unimaginable magnitude of death. Hearing a Holocaust survivor sing a Yiddish song to my travel group and me at Jewish Community Center in Krakow was inspiring, and stories of hope, courage, and survival are always uplifting. However, Warsaw, which was once home to the second largest Jewish community in the world, saw only five Jewish births this past year, the Chief Rabbi of Poland told us at the Jewish cemetery. Seeing a mountain of human ash before me in Majdanek, standing at the site of “Operation Harvest Festival” where Nazis shot 43,000 Jews while partying to music, hearing about how babies were treated like trash and were dumped from dump trucks near Tarnow, and observing the indescribable horror remaining at Auschwitz-Birkenau – these are memories that I will never forget. But I can't help but to wonder: has the world as a whole already forgotten?

It may be difficult to imagine that anti-Semitism

is alive and well at a top educational institution where over twenty percent of the students are Jewish. Nevertheless, recent events should continue to remind us that it is still present and that the attempt to wipe out the Jews during World War II did not wipe out anti-Semitism. In the little over two weeks that encompassed both Passover and Yom Hashoah, a white supremacist's shooting spree left three people dead at two Jewish community sites near Kansas City, and masked men outside of a synagogue in Ukraine handed out leaflets demanding that Jews register and pay a fine or leave.

In the Kansas City, Missouri area, Frazier Glenn Cross (who also went by Miller), shot a 14-year-old boy and his grandfather outside of the Kansas City Jewish Community Center as well as a woman visiting her mother at Village Shalom, a senior living community. Although the attacks were clearly targeted towards the Jewish community (Cross shouted “Heil Hitler” in the patrol car after his arrest), none of the victims happened to be Jewish. According to CNN, Cross had been active in the white supremacy movement since the 1970s and had even run for U.S. Sen-

ate in 2010 with the slogan “It's the Jews, Stupid.”

Horribly, a nearby Missouri mayor was acquainted with the man and had even expressed some support for him. Almost ten years ago, Marionville Mayor Daniel Clevenger wrote a letter to the editor of the Aurora Advertiser, claiming that he is “a friend of Frazier Miller helping to spread his warnings” since the “Jew-run medical industry has succeeded in destroying the United States' workforce,” and the “Jew-run government backed banking industry turned the U.S into the world's largest debtor nation,” according to KSPR, a Springfield, Missouri news source. In a recent interview after the shooting, Clevenger said that he still “kind of agreed with [Cross] on some things” and that “there are some things going on in this country that are destroying us,” including “a false economy and some of those corporations are run by Jews.” These controversial remarks led to Clevenger's resignation.

The Missouri shootings “come at a time when anti-Semitic incidents in the United States are at their lowest level in decades,” according to CNN, “but while the number of total inci-

dents dropped, there was a significant increase in violent anti-Semitic assaults” last year. CNN, citing the Anti-Defamation League, reported that total incidents dropped to 751 (a 19 percent decrease) from 2012 to 2013, yet anti-Semitic assaults on Jewish people or those perceived as Jewish went up from 17 to 31 that same year. In Europe, however, anti-Semitism is even more prevalent.

On the Eve of Passover, masked men distributed leaflets to Jews leaving the Bet Menakhem-Mendl synagogue in Donetsk, Ukraine. The leaflets, addressed to the “Jews of Donetsk,” ordered Jews to register in Room 514 or “the guilty ones would be deprived of their citizenship and deported outside the republic and their property confiscated,” according to the Times. They were supposedly signed by

Denis Pushilin of the Donetsk People's Republic, the newly declared and unrecognized state claiming to represent ethnic Russians in eastern Ukraine. However, the Donetsk People's Republic and other pro-Russian groups deny any association with the leaflets. Alexander Maltsev, a spokesman for the Donetsk People's Republic, calls the leaflets “a provo-

cation” and some Ukrainians believe that the fliers were an attempt by the government in Kiev to discredit the Donetsk People's Republic. Room 514 of the Donetsk People's Republic headquarter was found to be empty, further supporting the claim that the leaflets were a hoax. However, an Anti-Defamation League statement regarding the incident acknowledged the “series of cynical and politically manipulative uses and accusations of anti-Semitism in Ukraine over the past year,” and condemned not only “the anti-Semitic content, but also all attempts to use anti-Semitism for political purposes.” It is important to note that the call to register Jews is alarming because registration, isolation, and extermination characterized the process of the Holocaust.

Ukrainian Jews are not the only European Jews who face discrimination. According to the Jerusalem Post, a survey by the European Union's Agency for Fundamental Rights showed that almost a third of Jews in several European countries are considering emigration, probably due to the fact that 66 percent reported anti-Semitism as having a negative effect on their lives. “A third of Jews polled in the FRA study refrained from wearing religious garb or Jewish symbols out of fear, and

23 percent avoided attending Jewish events or going to Jewish venues,” the Jerusalem Post reported.

European governments have also affected Jewish life, including attempts to ban circumcision in Germany; the ban of kosher slaughter in Poland, Denmark, and Sweden; and a call by a Hungarian parliament member to register the Jews. Many Europeans themselves hold anti-Semitic beliefs: the Anti-Defamation League's 2012 report, “Attitudes towards Jews in Ten European Countries,” found that over 55 percent of respondents believed that Jews are more loyal to Israel than to their own country. Additionally, of the 28 percent of those surveyed who said that their opinion of Jews is influenced by Israel's actions, their opinions are largely worsened – ranging from 50 percent in Poland to 85 percent in the Netherlands. In Hungary, 75 percent of respondents replied that Jews exert too much influence over international financial markets, and in the United Kingdom, the number of those surveyed who responded “probably true” to at least three of the surveyed four anti-Semitic stereotypes has increased by 70 percent.

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Cover Photo Taken in Ukraine and Words Translate to, "Colors of the Oppressors," which aligns Russia with Fascism.

An Independent Student Publication

Funded in part by the Student Activity Fee. Published with support from the Center for American Progress / Generation Progress
www.GenProgress.org

Comments and letters to the editor are always welcome at:
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EDITORIAL

On Queer Oppression & Our Power To Resist

This semester in particular has been a tough one for Cornell, and has taught us students that oppression is not an abstract concept, but like an Orwellian boot to the face, is here, at Cornell, everywhere, and it affects us every day. Since then Cornell has been abuzz with exciting activity, activity that can give us hope. Around the same time as the SA's unprecedented silencing of Resolution 72, the university announced that it was planning on cutting free TCAT bus passes for first year students, due to a subsidy deficit in TCAT caused by increased ridership. The university of course hoped that student would forget that TCAT receives approximately one third of its funding from Cornell, one third from the city of Ithaca, and one third from Tompkins County, despite 80% of TCAT's ridership coming from Cornell students. Students noted this hypocrisy and engaged in a series of direct actions, which culminated in the university capitulating and reinstating free bus passes after students threatened a "study-in" in the administrative offices of Day Hall. This inspiring victory is proof that when students organize to collectively make their voices heard the Cornell administration can be forced to act justly. But a single victory does not mean that Cornell is free from oppression. Regular readers of Cornell Progressive may have noticed a curious omission from last month's editorial, which mentioned "the recent violent hijacking of Haven: The LGBTQ Student Union's elections" but did not elaborate or discuss this violence. This editorial will discuss some of the oppressions in the queer community, and attempt to offer hope on a topic where hopelessness is understandably pervasive. While this editorial's discussion of oppression is limited, it is my hope that this editorial about hope will express sentiments that those experiencing other forms of oppression will be able to relate to and apply to their own struggles. All oppression is connected, and we must stand with each other in order to demand change.

The resources that Cornell gives to the queer community on campus are directed to two sources: one, the LGBT resource center, which is a formal part of the Cornell administra-

tive apparatus, and two, Haven: The LGBTQ Student Union, which is the umbrella student group. Oppression permeates both of these organizations, and they often coordinate their oppression at strategic moments. A listing of some manifestations of this oppression follows, although this listing is by no means even close to comprehensive. This list will culminate with a discussion of the Haven elections, after which we will search for vestiges of hope, and opportunities for creating change.

OUTREACH, a sub-organization of Haven serving as the GBT men's support group, has been accused of racism and biphobia. Student Assembly President Ulysses Smith '14 has publicly expressed his discomfort when attending OUTREACH meetings due to feeling othered and marginalized as a black man. OUTREACH facilitator Peter Baker '16 also sent out an email to the OUTREACH listserv expressing frustration with losing movie seats due to "a quarrel with some feral Asian mothers," although to be fair to Peter, he did later apologize and express regret for these racist remarks. Students who identify as bisexual have reported pervasive biphobia, with people saying things like "You're bisexual? Well tonight I'm want to make you all gay." Still more students have expressed vague feelings of discomfort, of feeling that OUTREACH is an unhealthy space for them, without being able to articulate exactly why they feel this way; oppression often feigns inclusivity while in practice members of a specific group subtly assert their power in particular organizations; it is in this way that people are stripped of their ability to fully articulate how they are oppressed.

Transphobia is pervasive in Haven. Haven did not think that the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance, which memorializes in transgender people murdered in hate crimes, was an important enough event to warrant formal support and planning collaboration. The annual event was organized this year by Direct Action to Stop Heterosexism (DASH) which at the time was not a formal Haven sub-org, and after becoming a Haven sub-org, has chosen to leave Haven due to its ongoing oppression. Additionally,

Haven has no sub-org representing the transgender community. The Ithaca Trans Group has been denied sub-org status, ostensibly because it includes some members who are not Cornell students, but no attempt has been made to see if Cornell policies discouraging non-Cornell students from benefiting from Cornell resources can be modified to accommodate a group that meets on Cornell's campus, is largely composed of Cornell students, and which represents a minority that has experienced severe oppression, or even if the administration would make any attempts to enforce this policy.

Newly elected Haven president Jevan Hutson '16 (elected at the second round of elections) has made statements that can be reasonably interpreted as white supremacist. After Ulysses Smith publicly expressed his discomfort with OUTREACH, Jevan told people that he was annoyed at Ulysses for expressing his frustrations, because "If Ulysses sees a problem he should change it instead of complaining about it," placing the burden on the target of white supremacy to somehow singlehandedly change the racist culture, rather than on the white oppressors (including himself). This example was not an isolated incident, but rather a pattern of behavior on Jevan's part of oppressing less privileged people. It is well worth remembering that condemning others for calling attention to racism *is* itself an act of racism and white supremacy.

An all too brief summary of Haven Elections: Shortly before spring break, Haven had its elections, which were immediately co-opted by the Cornell administration and lame-duck Haven president Jadey Kartikawati '14, who used her power in a violent fashion to ensure that Haven's corporate values and culture of oppression would continue. The election was, without the discussion or consent of the Haven e-board, facilitated by Carol James, a Cornell administrator who is an interim director of the LGBT Resource Center—the problem of an administrator facilitating a student election is hopefully obvious. Carol illegitimately imposed a five-minute limit on Q&A and discussion after candidates spoke (and she was the

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In Condemnation of The Cornell Review's Recent Comments

The Cornell Progressive is deeply offended by the hateful comments regarding Cornell Director of Intercultural Programs, Renee Alexander, published in the Cornell Review in their satirical piece on potential presidents for Cornell. Furthermore, we approve of the efforts made by the Review to apologize to Dean Alexander. Referring to Renee Alexander's skin color and gender was not only inappropriate, racist, and sexist, but it also revealed just how necessary are her efforts to educate Cornell's students about diversity actually. Renee Alexander has done a lot of good work for the campus, both diversity oriented and beyond. Students have expressed their indignation and anger at the ignorant comments upon viewing the piece. One said, "This piece belittles the hard work she has done over so many years regardless of race or gender." Such insensitive comments, although under the guise of satire, fail to account for the magnitude of Renee Alexander's contributions to Cornell.

On Neoliberalism and Bread

Abby Golub

Resisting Neoliberalism Through Artisan Bread

“I just wanted to tell you that this is my favorite part of the week,” a customer confessed at the Cornell Farmers Market Bread Club Stand. Many people laugh when I tell them about Bread Club, and they repeat the common phrase, “Cornell has a club for everything.” But as our regular customers can attest, Bread Club is not just a random club; it is meaningful. As I will explain, it is part of a larger movement. Cornell has a club for everything that matters enough for at least four people to commit to starting it, and some clubs are relevant enough to attract many members.

There was no Bread Club my sophomore year, two years ago. At the time I thought it would be fun to have a club of people I could invite over to make bread with me, since I was making bread in my free time anyway, and I enjoy baking with friends. I thought it was silly and not worth the effort to make an official club, but two friends insisted we do it, and so we filled out the paperwork. Today the Bread Club has over 350 people on our listserv, and has successfully held elections to continue next year. Who could have guessed that a silly seemingly random idea would grow into a real and meaningful club? In retrospect, I understand better why the club might have become relevant. I was inspired to start Bread Club not only from my own personal baking, but also because of the bakers in Vermont who have helped shape my identity, who themselves were inspired by other bakers and artisans in other fields. Through interviews, working in a bakery, and personal reflections for my anthropology senior thesis, I have gained an awareness of how individual experiences articulate with larger forces. Bakers build fulfilling lives for themselves and their communities in context.

Bakeries in Vermont have their roots in the Back to the Land Movement of the 1960s and 1970s when relatively privileged, but disenfranchised, young people moved from cities to rural areas to find simpler lifestyles. For example, Helen and Jules Rabin and Chuck Conway and Carla Kevorkian of Upland Bakers and OBread Bakery, respectively, identified the Back to the Land Movement as one influence that brought them to Vermont and contributed to their



Courtesy of Cornell Bread Club

becoming bakers. These early bakers built fulfilling lives for themselves, and inspired future generations to do similar work. Today, while early bakeries are still running, new bakeries are also cropping up around the country. As Heather Paxson claims about cheese makers, this generation of bakers is inspired to revitalize communities. Movement participants find themselves making bread, cheese, chocolate, or even furniture for similar and different reasons. Many types of projects connect people more closely with the environment, allow us to produce tangible goods with our hands, and help us build identities for ourselves in our respective communities. Bread is especially well-suited to the temperament, goals, and skills of bakers. Bread is primary; a staple starch. Bakers feed people, supporting communities through the food, relationships, and economic support they provide. The process of baking is flexible to fit a variety of lifestyles bakers may seek at different times in their lives. Bakers may learn baking skills from an early age, from fortuitous encounters and on-the-job training, and others may seek formal training. Bread is uniquely suited to enable bakers to build fulfilling lives for themselves and their communities.

Small bakeries are appealing be-

cause they embody values and lifestyle possibilities alternative to neoliberalism. Under neoliberalism, money is the ultimate goal, the government is not responsible for social welfare, and individuals are expected to take responsibility for themselves. Some individuals and organizations such as churches and NGOs care for community welfare. When individuals bake bread and share it, they work towards a better world for themselves and their communities. They meet the challenge of caring for themselves, and they do it while nourishing their communities. Bakers build relationships and support the mental as well as the physical well-being of communities. In this way, baking bread is an alternative to strictly capitalist motives.

Unlike NGOs who rely on corporate sponsors to fund their services, bakers do all their work by hand. The phenomenon of corporations funding nonprofits to improve their images is called the “Non-Profit Industrial Complex.” For example, Wal-Mart funds Teach for America. Small bakers in Vermont barely make ends meet, but they have control over their funds. One baking couple told me their accountant “thinks we are crazy for giving so many donations, but he makes it work.” This bakery never denies a request for a bread donation from a local group. Extras

go to a local nursing home, to the school spaghetti dinner fundraiser, and more. Bakers participate in the capitalist system just enough to run their businesses, and to benefit from the opportunity to connect to people by selling them food at markets. Furthermore, at co-op markets and supermarkets, bakers are able to reach a population beyond their immediate neighborhoods. At Cornell and elsewhere in the United State, extreme debt is increasingly common. Many recent college graduates choose jobs that will help pay off loans rather than pursuing lofty goals of community and fulfillment. Some students, faculty, and staff take time in their busy weeks to bake bread or try samples, to buy a slice or loaf and chat with bakers. I hope that we can help build a world where all people have access to quality food, physical and mental healthcare, and opportunities to find and make meaning. Without relying on wealthy parents or risking taking a vow of poverty, we should be empowered to make life decisions based on values other than economics. At Cornell and in other communities, individuals choose to harness the power of bread to build alternative, meaningful lives.

CP

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Sam Naimi On Queer Invisibility

Queer Student Assaulted; University is Silent

Early last March on North Campus, according to the CUPD, there ensued a physical and verbal altercation between two parties at Robert Purcell Community Center, and it has been heavily alleged that the male victim of the incident was attacked because of his sexual identity as a gay man. Why this information of an attack was not widely disseminated to the greater campus community, and even more to the already marginalized queer community itself, through a CrimeAlert or other form of widespread communication is disconcerting and unconscionable. This single incident of homophobia and heterosexism on our own campus is further emblematic of the ever-present environment of unsafety and invisibilization that queer students at Cornell still experience to this day.

Haven: The LGBTQ Student Union, and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Resource Center (LGBT RC) were both born in Ithaca in the mid to late 1990's after years of students and faculty lobbying for the queer community's recognition as a group of people constitutive of an oppressed and silenced community on campus. For years, the community struggled with administrators who refused to allow the experiences and identities of queer people to be extricated from the shadows of an oppressive heteronormative and cisnormative culture that time and time again systematically quieted the voices and identities of queer students. For example, in 1998 alone there was an appalling total of 27 anti-gay bias incidents on campus directed at both students and faculty. Nonetheless, prominent Cornell figures such as President H.T. Rhodes

imposed their own definitions of "diversity" onto the larger Cornell population and even went so far as to blatantly express the (fallacious) belief that the creation of a gay living and learning center on campus would somehow further fragment Cornell's definition of "diversity." Now even within Cornell's contemporary culture, queer students still have to fight for their voices to be respected and their identities validated.

The occurrence on North Campus, and Cornell's inability to effectively communicate the ongoing homophobia and hatred that lingers on our own campus to this day echoes the very same issues that queer students faced in the past. The fact that the crime was not constituted as a hate crime, nor as one even worthy of being circulated to the community, reveals the continued culture of homophobia that ravages our very campus still to this day. Cornell is not a place exempt from homophobia and intolerance, as much as people may argue it is. Yes, we are a more liberal and progressive student body in many regards, yet we are nonetheless still subject to acting complicity with systems of oppression and inequality that prove deleterious to those who exercise non-normative queer sexualities or gender identities. What message does it send if a gay man is attacked for his sexual orientation and the determining factor for his harassment is not acknowledged? Why do certain crimes against certain communities become relegated to lower categories? Who controls and polices the way we interpret the importance of crimes, what constitutes a hate crime, and what is worthy of being inserted into the public consciousness? These are not questions I wish to seek answers



Courtesy of usaeducationnews.com

to now; rather I wish to prompt us to reevaluate the ways we allow identity politics to shape our everyday actions, and to critically assess how the university's conception of "diversity"

intersects with and influences the way we interact and hierarchize different social identities.

CP

Anti-Semitism - Continued From Page 1

Despite this anti-Semitism, 41 percent of all Europeans surveyed believe it is "probably true" that Jews still talk too much about the Holocaust. In light of these chilling statistics, rising anti-Semitism, and continued hate crimes against Jews, however, we need to talk about the Holocaust now more than ever. One

of the most meaningful passages in the Passover Haggadah holds that "in every generation, they rise upon us to destroy us." As the generation of people who were alive during the Holocaust passes away, will this Haggadah passage once again prove to be true? We must never forget so that it

CP

Texas' War on Women: Abortions Restricted

By: Jonathan Jaffe

It's widely known that Texas state legislatures oppose pro-choice policies, but recent regulations at the state level have led to an all out war against the right of Texas women to make decisions about their own bodies. While in theory the 1973 Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade* ensured the right of American women to pursue abortion procedures at their own discretion, since 2000 Texas legislatures have been slowly restricting women's access to state abortion clinics. Beginning in 2000, Texas legislatures imposed a requirement stating that all minors seeking abortions must agree to parental notification. Then, in 2006, the state imposed rules requiring that underage girls receive parental permission in order to obtain legal abortions. While perhaps these policies policing abortions for underage girls make some empirical sense, many policies extend to the rights of women of all ages.

2004 brought sweeping reform

across the state, requiring that all abortions occurring after 16 weeks of pregnancy be performed in ambulatory surgical centers – a classification that requires state approval and mandates a set of strict clinical standards. While late-term abortions become increasingly complicated and cost intensive, fewer than 0.05 percent result in complications requiring hospital attention.

Then, in 2011, new legislation was passed requiring Texas women to receive ultrasounds 24 hours prior to their abortion procedure, creating yet another barrier for women seeking the constitutionally approved operation. Finally, in July 2013, Governor Rick Perry signed into law a policy mandating that all abortion clinics receive admitting privileges from local hospitals, effective October 2013, in addition to banning all abortions after 20 weeks. While receiving admitting privileges from a local hospital may seem like a benign requirement, the reality is that many hospitals will

refuse to grant this permission given the general statewide disapproval of abortion operations.

The final nail in the coffin of Texas abortions is set to go into effect in October 2014, which would require all abortions in the state to take place in outpatient surgery clinics. What effects will these measures have on the ability for women in Texas to receive abortions? The result of these measures is the closure of many abortion clinics across the state, which is forcing many women desiring abortions to drive hundreds of miles in order to undergo legal abortion procedures. However, for many women seeking abortions, this journey is simply not feasible. For example, many women cannot afford to leave their children without childcare, miss work, or even afford the expensive trip necessary to get to one of the few remaining clinics. In response, many Texas women are turning to illegal self-induced abortions in order to receive the much sought after procedure.

For many women, misoprostol, a prescription drug for relieving ulcers, is the drug of choice in self-induced abortions, and it can be found, sans-prescription, in local flea market and across the border in Mexico. Assuming appropriate dosage, the drug works with 85 percent accuracy, and its usage is resulting in many women performing abortions from the comfort of their own homes.

In effect, these new Texas policies are backfiring, forcing women to take their health into their own hands. If Texas legislatures truly desire to prevent abortion, they have to make a sincere attempt to make the procedure less appealing, not simply limiting the access of women to abortion clinics. Planned Parenthood is currently fighting these reforms in the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, but the outcome of the women's health debate in Texas is still uncertain.

CP

On GMO's Amanda Aragon

Frankenfoods: Friend or Foe?

“Hell no GMO” and “GM Know” are just a couple of Twitter feeds currently protesting current U.S. genetically modified organism (GMO) policies. Anti-GMO Twitter feeds and Facebook groups exploded with activity at the end of last May when news was released about an Oregon farmer who found genetically engineered wheat in his fields. Scientists aren’t sure how the strain arrived in Oregon since it was apparently shut down years ago. Since this event and the ruling about patent exhaustion not applying to seeds in *Bowman v. Monsanto*, there have been a couple of predictable events that almost always follow in the wake of a GMO controversy. First, biotechnology mogul Monsanto was hit with a class action lawsuit for the unapproved genetically modified wheat. Second, there was public outcry over GMOs. In the 90s GMOs were called “Frankenfoods,” and images of nightmarish human zombies eating GMOs abounded, usually on the news or on protest signs. Today the popular slogan is “Just say no to GMO,” and people are venting their frustrations on social media sites, many times influencing people who aren’t clear on the role GMOs actually play in our society. The same is true for GMO proponents, who run pages such as “People for factual GMO use.” All this hype causes people to get trapped into the image of GMOs as presented through social media, and so people don’t bother to see GMOs any other way, and they become staunchly pro-GMO or anti-GMO. GMOs are a complex topic, and it’s important to understand both the risks and the

benefits before forming an opinion that can influence policy.

Let’s begin with what a GMO actually is so we can later understand what it is not. A GMO is an organism, plant or animal, whose DNA has been altered by the artificial insertion of foreign DNA. For example, strawberries are very sensitive to the cold, which means a loss of crop if temperatures drop. The Arctic Flounder fish lives in freezing waters, and has a resistance to the cold. Scientists were able to take the gene that allows for this resistance from the fish and insert it into the strawberry, transferring the antifreeze property to the strawberry. The strawberry thus became a genetically modified organism. It’s the same strawberry as before, but now it won’t be as sensitive to the cold.

Opponents tend to paint these GMOs in a negative light, ignoring any possible benefits. Admittedly, giving strawberries an antifreeze property doesn’t solve any crucial problems, but there are GMOs trying to do exactly that. The Golden Rice Project, for instance, is reducing mortality in developing countries by introducing genetically modified rice that contains vitamin A. Vitamin A deficiency causes blindness and increased incidence of premature death in children. According to the Golden Rice Project, 25% of children who died could have been saved with this diet. Using the genetically modified rice in this way is an extremely efficient method to improve the diets of children in developing countries, much more efficient than simply handing out vitamins. This is not to say anything about problems of food distribution inequality, which would

not be solved by increased yields. Additionally, this does not address the problem of reduced genetic biodiversity and the poverty cycle many small farmers, nationally and internationally, find themselves in because of the patents on these seeds. This example merely represents a possible health benefit of this technology.

Finally, the issue everyone’s heard about is labeling. Last year California failed to pass Proposition 37, which would have required mandatory labeling of all GMO foods in the state. Proponents of the bill advocated a “right to know” where their food comes from, and according to the “Yes on 37” Facebook group, nearly 6 million Californians voted in favor of this. However, according to a 2008 CBS/New York Times poll, although 87% believe that GMOs should be labeled, only 53% said they would not likely buy food that was labeled as such. In other words, it seems that we want to be able to choose a non-GMO, even if we end up purchasing a GMO product. This freedom of choice works in theory, but the logistics of this would crush GMOs because companies would have to restructure their entire production and shipping process to differentiate GMOs from non-GMOs. Do we really have a right to know that supersedes such consequences? A Vermont court ruled in *International Dairy v. Amestoy* that we do not have the right to know because there has been no conclusive evidence of human harm caused by GMOs. On the other hand, the absence of evidence of harm does not indicate evidence that there is absence of harm. Proponents of labeling support the precautionary principle, which would place

the burden of proof on companies like Monsanto to prove that there is no harm, instead of on the public to prove that there is harm. However, proving harm one way or the other is so difficult because GMOs are a new technology and their full effects on humans cannot be known from the relatively short time they have been in use. Nonetheless, there is a potential harm to be incurred. For example, there are unknown allergy risks that come from combining different organisms. The fear is that GMOs will prove to be another example of smoking, which was once considered safe but was later found to be very harmful.

However, it is important to note that non-GMO foods also carry risk. Non-GMO plants that do not carry resistance to certain bacteria or pests have to be sprayed with more pesticides than GMO plants, and these pesticides can have adverse human health effects. The point is that both GMO and non-GMO foods carry some form of risk or drawback, and the extent of that risk is not yet known. There are potential benefits of GMOs, and there are also many risks that need to be considered. Knowing all of this background information, it is completely up to you whether to support GMOs or not. What’s important is keeping an open mind, especially on social and traditional media outlets. Policy change, in either support or opposition to GMOs, should not come from the uninformed.

CP

Mo’ Tech, Mo’ Problems On Wall Street

By Matthew Lynch

“Imagine it’s a casino,” analogizes author Michael Lewis about a Wall Street conspiracy while on a book tour advertising his new controversial work, *Flash Boys: A Wall Street Revolt*. Within the allegory he provides, bribed tour operators direct tourists to casinos where paid card-sharks with loaded decks easily dupe ignorant tourists. Then, the casino takes a “cut of what [the sharks] make off of fools” they play. “In this analogy,” says Lewis, “the casino is the exchange, the card-sharks are the high-frequency traders,” and “the tour operators are the banks and brokers” who handle and drive stock market orders onto the poker table, or the exchanges.” In an ironic twist, he laments we the investors “are the tourists.”

Lewis’ book re-ignites a fierce debate in the financing world over the role and impact of high-frequency (speed) trading (HFT). Evidenced by his analogy above, his work reveals a complex which leaves some investors disadvantaged in a supposedly

free and fair system. In his book, he follows a Canadian banker who discovers sneaky and illegal practices used by some high-frequency Wall Street traders.

By itself, high-frequency trading is not an illegal practice and is facilitated by our technology. This kind of trading relies on quick access to public information, and through sophisticated computer algorithms, traders post bids or offers while collecting data. The exercise became a problem when, with help from banks and exchanges, these HFTs used superior speed to their own advantage and threatened market fairness. Though his protagonist’s experience, Lewis concludes high-frequency traders practice “a form of front-running,” an illegal financial practice where – most commonly -- firms purchase or sell stock with advanced knowledge of a client’s interest in the same stock, inflating the stock’s price and the commission.

In the wake of public outrage after Lewis’ publication, proponents of HFTs rushed to defend. Securities and Exchange Commission Chairwoman

Mary Jo White, at a Financial Services Committee hearing early last week, contradicted Lewis and promised the “markets aren’t rigged.” She trumpeted US markets as “the strongest they’ll ever be.”

Other guardians, such as Michael Bloomberg, promote consumer choice. “You don’t have to trade there,” former NYC mayor tells CNBCs Sqwak Box. Bloomberg advocates prudence, and places the onus on the investor rather than the trader. “You can sit there and say,” Bloomberg advises, “I’m not going to tell them that I’m going to sell my stock.” In fact, argues Bloomberg, the number of exchanges and dark pools available better serve the public; because they help investors “get the best price.”

Still, other opponents view the automation of financial markets as an overall beneficial development. For co-founder and CEO of Global Trading Systems Ari Rubenstein, Lewis’ work is the unifying glue for banks, investors, and market makers allowing three previously warring factions to promote financial stability. Previous-

ly, he comments, the three factions disagreed about various proposed SEC regulations and pilot programs. Now as he thanks Lewis on this issue, “the vast majority of the financial services industry is now singing from the same Haggadah.”

However, speed, according to the old adage, can be a double-edged sword. Nick Baumann, reporter for Mother Jones, referenced a small panic at a medium-size financial firm called Knight Capital. A supposedly deactivated program went rogue, “blasting out trade orders” and costing the firm \$10million per minute until it was found and fixed 45 minutes later. This was akin to “a canary in the mine,” commented University of Maryland Law professor and former regulator at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC).

The markets today are more opaque, more sporadic, and faster, despite attempts at reform. Trades are executed in less than a half-millionth of a second – one million times faster than a human mind can act – by fi-

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Giorgi Tsintsadze On Censorship in Turkey

Twitter Schmitter: Democracy at a Crossroads

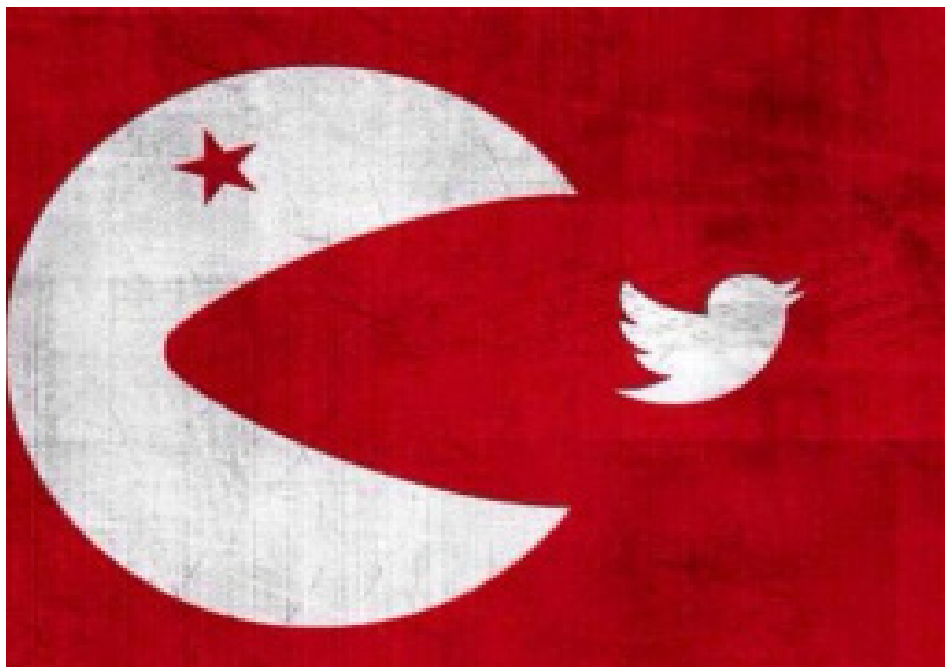


Photo Courtesy of gigaom.com

Many people think that governments limiting citizens' access to the Internet exist only in obscure, totalitarian regimes in the Far East. But this is certainly not the case. One can almost see those modern Turkish students eating lunch at Burger King on Taksim Square with novels by Orhan Pamuk in their bags waking up the next morning in astonishment to find out that their Prime Minister, Recep Erdogan, had decided to ban Twitter all over the country. Turkey is no North Korea and Erdogan is no Kim Jong Un. Turkey is, at least on paper, a secular, democratic Republic and a member of NATO, as well as a member of the European Union Customs Union, having established a strong political, economic and military alliance with the Western powers. Thus, the decision to ban Twitter came as a shock both for the Turkish people and the international community. Prime Minister Erdogan remained defiant, saying, "The international community can say this, can say that. I don't care at all. Everyone will see

how powerful the Republic of Turkey is."

Erdogan's attack on March 21 came as a response to the massive leak of audio recordings, which revealed a web of corruption in the Prime Minister's elite political circle that permeates the government, media and even the private business sector of Turkey. Opposition groups were using social networks, especially Twitter, to spread the recordings before the municipal elections scheduled for March 30. One week after blocking Twitter, Erdogan blocked YouTube as well, something he had already done in 2007. Indeed, the Turkish law that allows the executive government to heavily monitor the web enables the Prime Minister to take such measures. "Twitter, schmitter! We will wipe out all of these," declared Recep Erdogan.

Internet is emerging as a powerful means of mass mobilization. Messages can spread in a matter of literally minutes via Facebook and Twitter. Social movements and anti-governmental protests can and have started in social networks. Extremely wide-

spread grassroots campaigns like Stop Kony! and Occupy Wall Street have gained popularity with the vital help of digital communication. Because of all this, governments around the planet, especially those with authoritarian inclinations, often see the Internet as a threat. The most prominent members of the so-called "Enemies of The Internet" club are China, North Korea, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Belarus, Bahrain and Iran. Azerbaijan, Malaysia, Lybia, Pakistan and Russia are on the list of countries that are considered to display some aspects of Internet censorship.

Erdogan's decision to ban Twitter is interesting not only as an atypical decision by the head of a democratic state, but also for the response it generated around the world. This case has, once again, revealed the remarkable formation of Internet users as a distinct community with shared values and interests. The two most vivid principles that the Internet users community has been passionately defending are the freedom of expression and the freedom of information. Websites like OpenMedia International and Electronic Frontier Foundation act as organizational hubs for such digital social movements. Digital communication has also facilitated the mobilization of people for causes like minority rights, gender equality and animal rights.

As soon as the access to Twitter was blocked, shortly after midnight on March 20, social networks were flooded with tweets and posts expressing solidarity for the Turkish web users, criticizing and mocking Erdogan. On the more practical side, numerous people uploaded written and video instructions for accessing Twitter notwithstanding the restriction. Most importantly, Google released an official announcement, which offered the

citizens of Turkey the opportunity to access Twitter via Google's Domain Name System (DNS). The numbers of the Google DNS could be seen all around Istanbul, written on the walls in the streets. It was not difficult at all to downplay the constraint by the Turkish Telecommunications Regulator.

The ban was lifted on April 3, after two weeks of censorship. Twitter was flooded with messages welcoming Twitter back to Turkey. The reason for the lift was the ruling of the constitutional court, which judged Erdogan's decision as unconstitutional for violating the freedom of expression. Soon after the ruling, the international community, including the United States State Department, joined together to urge Erdogan to respect the decision of the court and act accordingly. Even the president of Turkey, Abdullah Gul, publicly recommended the more powerful Prime Minister to comply.

Even though the ban on Twitter was lifted, Erdogan's battle against the network continues, as he still promises to "root [it] out". Most recently, he publicly accused the company of financial wrongdoing, saying, "Twitter is a tax evader." What's more, the ban on YouTube is still effective. Erdogan's commitment to democracy has been questioned before. Doubts about his political orientation have been rising dramatically since his violent response to the 2013 protests in the capital. The ban on Twitter has supported those doubts even further, despite the fact that Erdogan's party won the municipal elections. It looks like democracy in Turkey is at crossroads and the Internet will surely play a role in the formation of the new political reality in the country.

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interim director of the LGBT Resource Center—the problem of an administrator facilitating a student election is hopefully obvious. Carol illegitimately imposed a five-minute limit on Q&A and discussion after candidates spoke (and she was the one who chose who of the over 100 people present would speak). When people spoke after the illegitimate five minute period had passed she threatened to remove them from the room. During the final discussion period for presidential candidates Jadey spent three minutes denouncing Haven Vice-president and presidential candidate Bailey Dineen '15 and endorsing a candidate who had only announced his candidacy the day prior and whom many/most of the people in the room could not recognize. Jadey revealed that she had urged him to run. This candidate does not want his name printed so that he is not outed and Cornell Progressive will respect his wish. For the last two minutes, Ulysses Smith '14, president of the SA, endorsed this same mystery candidate. Not coincidentally, both Jadey and Ulysses are members of the

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secret society Quill and Dagger, and Ulysses publicly said that he has never cared at all about Haven elections. Finally, one student was given thirty seconds to speak and was told to "make it quick;" he endorsed Bailey. After the illegitimate five minute period had elapsed a chorus of students voiced support of Bailey and condemnation of the corrupt process that was taking place. Students were again told to either end their speech or leave, and one student was physically pushed out of the room by interim LGBT Resource Center Director Shura Gat. After voting, many students left in disgust. Carol and Shura counted the votes and announced that there were equal votes cast for Bailey and the mystery candidate and that there would be a re-vote. This was obviously an illegitimate procedure given the large number of students who had already left the room, and again students voiced their protest. In a hasty meeting of the Haven e-board, in which Jadey Kartikawati '14 lied to the group that a re-vote in cases of ties was in Haven's constitution, the e-board voted

9-7 to have a re-vote. However, the two candidates then entered the room, with Bailey saying that their competitor candidate had told them that he no longer wished to be president. After a few tense moments a Cornell administrator announced that elections were cancelled and that everybody needed to leave the room. There were several intimidating police officers standing immediately outside the room and four large police SUV's outside the building. In the days following the elections, Jadey Kartikawati '14 again used the tool of police violence, filing "harassment" complaints against several students whose potential to speak out she feared (an example of one such "harassment" complaint is of a student pacing in the room outside of a separate event whom she described as "walking back and forth staring at her in a menacing manner;" charges against all students were dropped, as Jadey understood that the police recognized her complaints as farcical).

Following the elections, many queer students sank into despair. Haven and the Cornell administration had

revealed themselves to be oppressive and corrupt beyond repair, and many students felt and feel that there is no way to free Cornell's queer community. Cornell Progressive urges Cornell's queers not to sink into despair, but to resist. It is crucial that next semester's freshman are educated about queer oppression at Cornell. When all view Haven as illegitimate, it will inevitably crumble. Pressure should also be relentlessly placed on the Cornell administration to direct resources away from Haven and towards other groups of organized queer people, such as Direct Action to Stop Heterosexism (DASH) and the many other groups which are rapidly forming and will continue to form (already there is a group of students and community members planning a regional queer conference and others forming a non-monogamy education and support group). A power that must be propped up by the force of police can only be called desperate. Cornell's queer students will not disappear, and they will not stop resisting until liberation is finally achieved.

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Political Reflections Keanu Baker-Stryker

Ready for the Revolution

The capitalist world we live in is filled with oppression and exploitation. The oppression and exploitation of workers across the world continues and gets worse daily. The periodic crises that occur within the system of profit only benefit the global 1 percent in the long term.

Moreover, the divisions between nations on the periphery of capital and nations in the core of capital grow every day. Nations such as the United States, France, and Germany design their foreign policy to support the exploitation of “developing” nations by multinational corporations. In conjunction with international institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, “developed” nations institute policies that force “developing” nations to privatize their resources and industries.

This is the cause of the undeveloped nature of nations in the Global South. The moniker “developing nation” is a lie. These countries will never be allowed to “develop” industrially because the exporting of natural resources and cheap labor produces large profits for multinational corporations. Should these nations attempt to industrialize in a way that does not benefit multinational corporations, these efforts will be stopped either through violent means (as occurred in the Congo) or through policy, such as IMF structural adjustment programs which force nations to privatize burgeoning industries and thereby force third world nations into a neo-colonial relationship of cheap labor from the “developing” world and the exportation of raw materials to the industrialized world. Thus, the solution to these structural problems cannot be fixed by UN decree or by well-meaning NGOs

that feed into this problem. They can only be solved by the complete rearrangement of the economic order.

Even within the United States, the desire to make exorbitant profits has led to the large wealth gap between the rich and poor. Corporations looking for larger profits try to cut costs as much as possible. This can occur through the offshoring of jobs; however, even when these jobs stay within the United States, these workers are often paid far below the value they produce. Since the ‘80s and ‘90s, working class people (who perform the labor necessary to keep this country going) have found themselves in positions of ever-increasing precarity. While the 1 percent has experienced vast gains in wealth over the past years, the group of people who are forced to work for wages (which constitutes the majority of the American population) has experienced stagnating and even dropping real wages. And although these problems have only recently been reexamined in the American political sphere, they have existed in America since its creation. The contradiction between the growth of the American capitalist economy and the wealth of its working class has grown since the birth of the nation. Before the progressive reforms, corporations attempted to keep wages as low as possible setting them to a level which could only sustain the workers and their ability to procreate. These workers, driven by an artificial lack of jobs created by the “labor market” were forced to enter into wage relationships with employers. These wage relationships were exploitative in and of themselves: for one, they were forced upon the workers by the fact that they were the only means by



Photo Courtesy of house2housemagazine.com

which workers could make a living; and two, the wages the workers were paid were way below the value they created for the corporations.

Even in the era of “progressivism,” these relationships essentially remained the same. The exploitative wage relationships were still forced upon workers, and although there was a greater attempt to regulate the market, these regulations were not made in an effort to eliminate oppression and exploitation; rather, they were made to make capitalism’s evils more bearable. In 2005, Palestinian Civil Society issued a call for “Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with international law and Palestinian rights.” Groups all over the world answered this call in support of Palestinian liberation. The call for BDS supports the Palestinian struggle for liberation by calling on Israel to:

1. End its occupation and coloniza-

tion of all Arab lands occupied in June 1967 and dismantle the Wall;

2. Recognize the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and

3. Respect, protect and promote the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN Resolution 194.

The BDS movement also has galvanized movements for economic and social justice around the world. By seeing the oppression of Palestinians within a broader system of colonialism, capitalism, and imperialism, people have been drawn to the movements to not only end Palestinian national oppression but also end the oppression of all colonized people and all exploited peoples.

The solutions to these problems lie not in the alleviation of the ills of capitalism (as liberals and well-meaning NGOs attempt) but in completely restructuring the global economy. This is the goal of the socialist. The socialist does not want to “redistribute the wealth” or change incomes but struggles for the completely restructuring of who is in control of the means of producing wealth. Socialists desire to place working people in control of democracy and the economy to ensure that the economy works for those who need it most: the oppressed and exploited.

Socialists desire to end all wars and periodic crises by replacing the economic system of profit with a system that privileges the needs of the poor and oppressed. This is not utopian. This is necessary. A system that oppresses the majority of the people and nations in the world cannot exist forever; a system that destroys the economy and leads to constant warfare cannot last forever. If we are to deal with the concrete problems that face the people of the world today we must deal with the question of “socialism or barbarism.”

The answer is obvious. Expropriate the Expropriators! Let the 1 percent tremble! Working people of all countries, Unite!

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nancial firms deploying complicated algorithms as weapons battling for fractions of cents. When implemented thousands of times in one day, the profits are noticeable.

Most experts agree that high-speed trading is responsible for more than half of the United States’ total trading, a majority of it executed by small proprietary trading firms. HFT skeptics and opponents fear this intense speed magnifies algorithmic glitches as it did for Knight Capital, and if bigger firms get involved, their mistakes could be catastrophic for the markets. If a program from one of these bigger firms goes rogue, there could be “a series of cascade failures” similar to an economic domino effect, says former federal regulator Bill Black. While the 2008 crisis marinated over months, the next crisis could ignite in seconds. In 2010, a sell order by a Kansas firm in a substrate of traders shaken by the Greek Debt enkindled what is dubbed the “flash crisis.” The DOW dropped 1,000 points at the end of the day, and trade became erratic. Trades ranged from \$.01-\$100,000, and shares of the

consulting firm Accenture ranged from \$.01-\$30. The Wall Street Journal published an analysis of the crash, portraying “a market so fragmented and fragile that a single large trade could send stocks into a sudden spiral.”

The “Flash Crash,” and Lewis’ subsequent book, spurred SEC action. So far, the Commission fined the NYSE (New York Stock Exchange) \$4.5 million and the Chicago Stock Exchange Inc. \$300,000 regarding oversight violations. While small reparation compared to the stocks’ revenues, President of the Consulting firm K or Group LLC Dave Lauer described the penalty as “a big deal” compared to the Commission’s previous penalties. “At the end of the day,” he says, “the SEC is making a statement.” The SEC is treating exchanges like regulated entities now.

Concurrently, the SEC is also conducting a more proactive strategy, trailing a “trade-at” rule, mandating that brokerages and dark pools send their orders to public exchanges (i.e. NYSE, Nasdaq), unless better stock prices occur elsewhere. This new rule

reforms the previous controversial “maker-taker,” (“pay-to-play”) rule, for buying and selling shares. The SEC and Congress hope this new regulation will end exchanges’ ability to develop, and profit from, special-order types while also curbing exchanges’ capability of selling direct data feeds.

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Photo Courtesy of Business Insider

THE LAST THOUGHT

Wes Turner Does the Internet Belong to the People?

The issue of net neutrality first came to public attention in 2010. After Level 3 Communications signed a contract to host Netflix content, they asked Comcast to upgrade a connection between them to accommodate higher traffic. Comcast demanded that Level 3 pay for the use of more bandwidth. At the time, this was against a net neutrality FCC order which stated that wireline ISPs “shall not block lawful content, applications, services or non-harmful devices, subject to reasonable network management” while also mandating that ISPs “shall not unreasonably discriminate in transmitting lawful traffic over a consumer’s broadband Internet access service.” However since then, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia has struck down the FCC’s order that imposed network neutrality regulations on wireline broadband services. The ruling is a major victory for telecom and cable companies who have fought all net neutrality restrictions vociferously for years.

To better explain net neutrality, imagine you are watching Netflix in one tab and browsing your friend’s startup in another, your ISP couldn’t give preferential treatment or create a “fast lane” to influence which website would load faster. As far as the FCC is concerned, all websites are created equal and thus deserve equal bandwidth in

“Corporate powers would be able to dwarf innovation.”

getting to your computer. This was a good thing for small businesses and start-ups that could never pay the fees for superior treatment. A real world example, as Senator Franken recently pointed out, was the short-lived battle between YouTube and Google Video a decade ago. Under the old network neutrality principles, neither YouTube nor Google Video was given preferential treatment. YouTube eventually was declared the superior platform by consumers and was bought out by Google. However, under the FCC’s new proposal, there’s a danger that Google Video would have delivered its videos significantly faster, intentionally throttling the speed that a YouTube video could load. Corporate powers would be able to dwarf innovation.

Comcast, who also hopes to merge with Time Warner, is leading the movement for a closed Internet. Comcast wants to be allowed to offer faster and better transmission to content providers, such as Comcast’s NBC, which is willing and able to pay a premium. This would allow larger firms to overpower smaller ones and to stifle innovative startups; this puts corporate issues before individual rights.

Apparently having a laughably slow fiber optic network at an un-



Photo Courtesy of data-directions.com

justifiably high price doesn’t constitute enough cliché corporate evil. American carriers already charge some of the world’s highest prices, around sixty dollars or more per month for broadband, a service that costs less than five dollars to provide. Time Warner Cable CTO Irene Esteves explained that her company doesn’t plan to build fiber out to the home because there’s no evidence that American consumers actually want super-fast networks. National Cable & Telecommunications Association CEO Michael Powell recently described achieving gigabit speeds as an “irrelevant exercise in bragging rights.” The cable industry doesn’t fear backlash because it knows consumers have nowhere else to go.

However, more frightening than slow Internet speed is the possibility that corporate powers choose what we have access to. If Comcast doesn’t like that you cancelled their cable service because Netflix is cheaper and more convenient, they can block netflix.com from getting to your house. If Verizon doesn’t like the fact that you’re streaming the Olympics through NBC.com—a Comcast-owned company—on the Verizon fiber network, they can slow it down. Think about how absurd that is! That would be like the governor of a state deciding that he doesn’t like your town just because its voters favor the other party, so he closes down one of the bridges and stops the people from getting to work. Just think about how crazy it would be if that ever actually happened!

Giving corporations the ability to limit the content of the Internet threatens our democracy. Half of Americans get their news online. Comcast should not be able to pick from which site. The Internet, namely Facebook and Twitter, has influenced social and political movements globally. Limitations on these are government-sanctioned limitations on freedom. It is government censorship under the guise of corporate freedom.

“I am a strong supporter of net neutrality,” then-presidential can-

“Limitations on these [websites] are government-sanctioned limitations on freedom. It is government censorship under the guise of corporate freedom.”

didate Barack Obama said in 2007. “What you’ve been seeing is some lobbying that says that the servers and the various portals through which you’re getting information over the Internet should be able to be gatekeepers and to charge different rates to different Web sites.... And that I think destroys one of the best things about the Internet—which is that there is this incredible equality there.” Unfortunately, his F.C.C. chairman is in the process of violating a core promise to innovators, to the technology sector, and to the American people. Net neutrality is needed to limit encroaching corporate powers. Only equal access can fight corporate excess.

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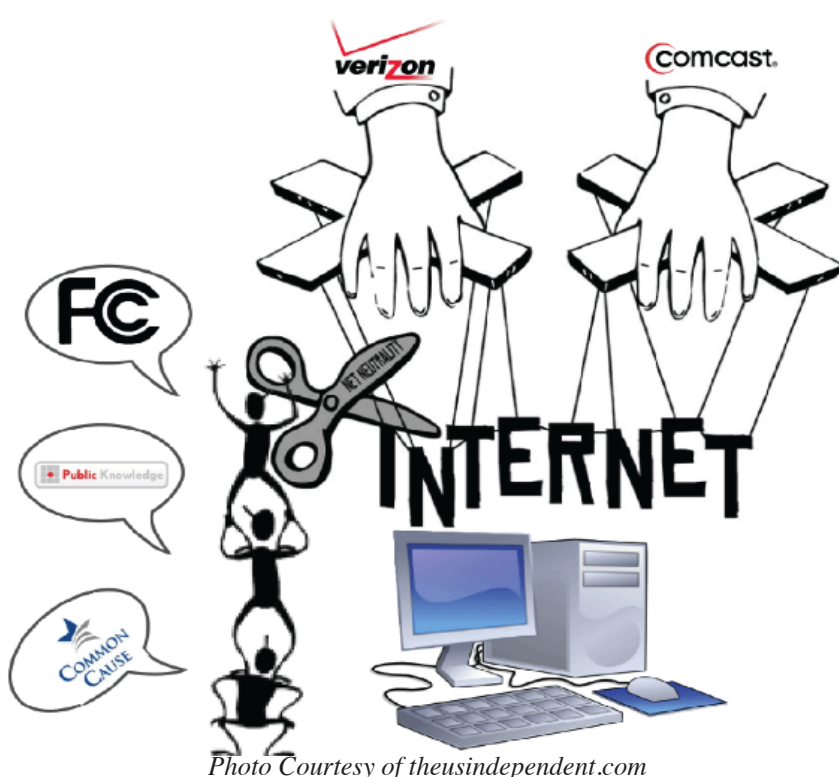


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